

NATIONAL PARKS

MAGAZINE

*Historical
Issue*



Re-enactment of the Yellowstone Campfire of 1870

40th Anniversary
National Parks Association
Founded 1919

May 1959

Fifty Cents

GUEST EDITORIAL

Standards of Our National Park System

By Robert Sterling Yard

THE standards which differentiate our national park system from state park and national forest recreational systems alone guarantee its unique character, remarkable distinction, and inspirational usefulness. These sprang directly from the people in the beginning, and have been maintained by popular aspiration reflected during many years in the national government. From the creation of Yellowstone in 1872, succeeding Congresses and succeeding administrations have built up the system, unit by unit, in response to the popular demand.

When the first national parks administration assumed charge under the Interior Department in 1915, it found a large group of great national parks of remarkable scenic magnificence, and several other parks so small and wholly out of key with the rest as to be manifestly accidental exceptions. It was this group of great parks, the creation of forty-three years of public expression and governmental response, which—in the absence of definition in law—the first national parks administration took as its model for the development of the system.

National parks have always been, are now, and must remain, areas of original unmodified conditions, each the finest example of its scenic type in the country, preserved as a system from all industrial use. The day that sees these historic standards lowered in any part of the system will begin the entire system's deterioration to the common level of playground reservations of any type. All will then be lost of this proud possession except a name.

Previous to the sudden invasion of all American outdoors by the new-born craze for long-distance motor touring, there had been no need of formal national park definition. So far, recreation had not figured as a principal

national park function. There was never a doubt in the minds of this first administration, of which the writer was then a part, of the precise nature of the national park system and its marked distinction from every other land system in the country.

The touring motorists' invasion of national parks is used recently by ardent recreationalists to prove that the times have changed, that the standards are no longer popular. On every count, this promotion is fallacious. The motor visitors to our national parks—whatever their sins may or may not be in other respects—are in this respect altogether maligned. These invaders of the solitudes of our national parks are, for the most part, earnest, wide-awake Americans on holiday, for which many of them have been saving for months or years. They are seeing America and come into the national parks for the wonderful "sights" of which they have read in the newspapers and heard from their friends.

With few exceptions, those of them who hear, while in the national parks, what this system really is, what its standards and purposes are, and what it means to the nation, rise enthusiastically to the splendid conception. They have discovered another and a glowing reason to be proud of their country.

My personal experience in spreading knowledge of the system and its standards, which is long, wide and varied both in and out of the national parks, shows that the plain people of America, once they grasp this vision, are its readiest and most enthusiastic advocates. Met on the trail, on the rim, or around the family camp fire, most of them will talk earnestly of the greatness of our national parks, and the need for keeping the system at its highest point of efficiency.

So, also, without the parks; the audiences which rise quickest to the ideal of national parks standards, who show the most interest, and ask the most (and often most intelligent) questions, are those made up of the plain people of the country. With them, when once they grasp the vision, national park standards are safest.

The national parks system was born of the instinct to preserve for all time extraordinary beauty and majesty of native landscape in original unmodified record; it was developed by the genius of the people, without conscious planning, through a generation and a half of park making; this product analyzed, its purpose and its standards were formulated for the conscious upbuilding of the future. The system is thus revealed as a unique expression of the combined idealism and practicality which makes this nation great. ■



Our "guest" for this editorial is really not a guest at all, but rather the most intimate member of the National Parks Association family. He served as the first Executive Secretary of the Association from the time it was founded in 1919 to 1931, and continued to serve it in a variety of ways until his death in 1945. This editorial is a condensation of a statement made by Mr. Yard in the April, 1927 issue of the *National Parks Bulletin*, forerunner of the

present *National Parks Magazine*. His statement seems most appropriate in this special historical issue of the magazine. For without Bob Yard and his forthright, uncompromising stand on national park standards, the American people might well have lost—during these past forty years—much of their great national park heritage.

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NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

MAY 1959

Vol. 33, No. 140

Bruce M. Kilgore, Editor

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ON THE COVER

On September 19, 1870, around a campfire at the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers in the Yellowstone region of what is now Wyoming, members of the Washburn-Doane expedition listened to the suggestion of Judge Cornelius Hedges that the country of volcanic wonders and scenic beauty, which they had been exploring for several weeks, be set aside as a great national park. Two years later, President Grant signed the bill establishing Yellowstone as "a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Re-enactment photo by J. E. Haynes.

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

Few people realize that ever since the first national parks and monuments were established, various commercial interests have been trying to invade them for personal gain. The national parks and monuments were not intended for such purposes. They are established as inviolate nature sanctuaries to preserve permanently outstanding examples of the once primeval continent, with no marring of landscapes except for reasonable access by road and trail, and facilities for visitor comfort. The Association, since its founding in 1919, has worked to create an ever-growing informed public on this matter in defense of the parks.

The Board of Trustees urges you to help protect this magnificent national heritage by joining forces with the Association now. As a member you will be kept informed, through NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, on current threats and other park matters, so that you may take action when necessary.

Dues are \$5 annual, \$8 supporting, \$15 sustaining, \$25 contributing, \$100 life with no further dues, and \$1000 patron with no further dues. Bequests, too, are needed to help carry on this park protection work. Dues, contributions and bequests are deductible from your federal taxable income. Send your check today, or write for further information, to the National Parks Association, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, formerly National Parks Bulletin, is published monthly by the National Parks Association. School and library subscription \$4 a year. Individual copy 50 cents. Letters and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the Editor, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. The National Parks Association is not responsible for loss or injury to manuscripts and photographs in transit. Return postage should accompany contributions. Copyright 1959 by the National Parks Association. Title Registered U.S. Patent Office. Printed in the United States. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C.



U. S. Department of Interior

Galen Clark (left) stands at the base of Yosemite's Grizzly Giant in this 1858 Watkins photo (thought to be the first ever made of a Sequoia). Through

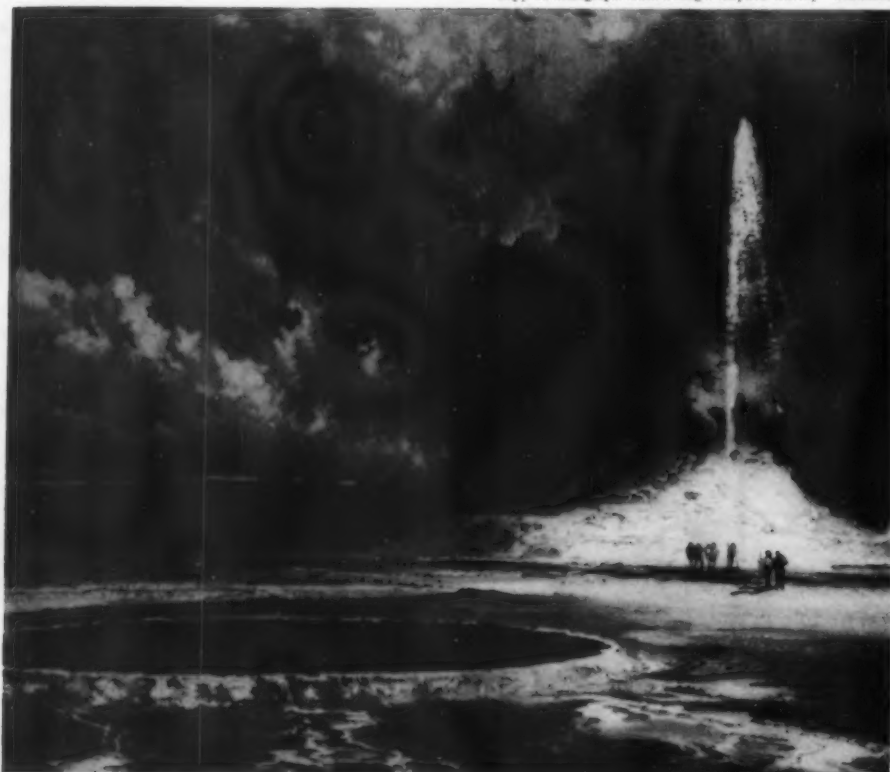


National Park Service

his photos, Watkins (above) contributed greatly to making nineteenth-century Americans aware of the beauty of the Yosemite country.

The National Park Concept

Copy of lithograph from Frang's Hayden Survey "Portfolio"



This 1874 Thomas Moran painting (left) of Castle Geyser in the newly-established Yellowstone National Park was one of many which helped to make the park famous.



National Park Service

Moran (above) accompanied the Barlow-Heap Army Engineer expedition of 1871 to the region studied the year before by the Washburn-Langford-Doane party.

THERE is always the danger, I suppose, that a classic story of unselfish behavior, by frequent repetition, may suffer the fate of Aristides. You remember the Athenian who cast his ostracizing vote against the virtuous statesman and who explained his act by saying, "I've got nothing against the man; he's a first-rate fellow; but I'm sick and tired of hearing him called 'The Just.'"

That would be a sad fate for the Yellowstone campfire tale, which is both authentic and epochal. When Cornelius Hedges, a member of the Washburn-Doane expedition that visited this crater of wonders in 1870, made his statement that the region was too pre-

cious to become a field of commercial exploitation, and should be held for all the people, he was opening a new page in the ledger of civic conduct.

More important than the statement, however, was the fact that the members of that famous party *did something about it*. The noblest sentiment, most nobly expressed, may merely mingle with the air like chimney smoke. But these men, or most of them, led by Nathaniel P. Langford, took up the thought that "this area should be set apart as a great national park, and we must strive to get an act of Congress that will make it so." *That* was what, in Emerson's homely phrase, "battered the parsnips."

Grant's signature to an act of Congress putting Yellowstone under the protection of the federal government as "a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people," were these valiant conservationists achieving in every sense "the first park." Perhaps the reservation of the reputedly medicinal hot springs in Arkansas, however clumsily and amateurishly handled, could be our first instance of the sense of public welfare as against the loot of natural resources by the first irresponsibles who came upon them. In that special sense, you go back even to 1832.

A better instance is that of Yosemite. Whether Yosemite or Yellow-



The National Archives

Members of the U.S. Geological Survey party of 1871 who explored the Yellowstone country under the leadership of Dr. F. V. Hayden (seated at far end of table). Photographer W. H. Jackson stands at right. Dr. Hayden, together with N. P. Langford and Congressman W. H. Claggett, drew up the Yellowstone bill which was introduced by Claggett in December, 1871. As a prominent scientist who had visited the area personally, Dr. Hayden's support of the legislation was very important.

By Freeman Tilden

After a long career as a creative writer, Freeman Tilden of Warner, New Hampshire, became a collaborator and consultant in the office of former National Park Service Director Newton B. Drury in 1940. He has continued in this capacity under succeeding directors and today is working on a two-year study of the nation's state park systems—their history, objectives and policies. Mr. Tilden is author of *The National Parks: What They Mean to You and Me*, *Interpreting Our Heritage*, and many other books and articles.

Remember that these men, curious adventurers into a wilderness of which they had heard almost unbelievable yarns, were not at all the first Americans who had talked and thought about national parks. George Catlin long before had proposed a Great Plains park, where both bison and Indian history would be preserved. Thoreau had uttered trenchant sentences about the baseness of failing to save something of our primitive natural scene. Neither Catlin nor Thoreau were the sort of idealists who would do more than toss the suggestion.

Nor, indeed, when their insistent voices succeeded in getting President

stone was our "first national park" depends upon the way you handle words. The fact is, simply, that a group of Californians including I. W. Raymond, John F. Morse, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.—with the help of excellent photographs by C. E. Watkins—induced Congress in 1864 (through Senator John Conness) to transfer the valley and the Mariposa Big Trees from federal domain to the State of California "for public use, resort, and recreation," and [to be] "inalienable for all time." By the time Yosemite reverted to federal status and became Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone had already come into existence.

The signal achievement of Langford

and his shrilly vocal proponents of a Yellowstone Preserve—who actually dazed into acceptance a Congress that was mainly unsure of what it was all about, or where the place was situated on the map—was that they got into law a kind of Magna Charta of conservation, or preservation. For the first time the concept was clearly stated in law* that there were places of transcendent beauty, or scientific importance, or historic quality that no individuals had a right to grab, even in a period of national development when grabbing was still perhaps, however vicious, an almost unavoidable companion of land settlement. Oddly enough, the Congressional Act did not call the area Yellowstone National

Park. It did not give it a name. But in effect, nevertheless, it was Yellowstone National Park.

It will probably be perceived that I have been artfully dodging the story of the famous campfire that burned, near the end of the 1870 trip, at a place now called Madison Junction, where the Madison River is formed by the merging of the Firehole and the Gibbon. But we must take the pitcher to the well again, regardless of the fate of Aristides.

When one comes to think about it, it was rather odd that this bit of wilderness, about the size of Connecticut, had remained up to the seventh decade of the nineteenth century such a Magellan patch in our geographic whole. Emigrants had streamed westward north and south of it; the Santa Fe and Oregon trails were ancient, as our young nation counted years. The Gold Rush had invaded Death Valley even; the railroads had pushed across and tourism was in a heyday; and yet in Montana Territory there were folks whose curiosity led them to make up a party, and get an army escort, to go down and see whether there really were such things in that wilderness as had been reported.

John Colter had been in this wonderland of geysers and boiling springs and mud volcanoes in 1807. Truly, there must have been plenty of white men, prospectors, trappers, wanderers, who had roamed through this country, most of them not caring a continental about geysers or any such marvels, not even thinking them worth mentioning at the trading-post.

There was Jim Bridger, of course. Jim had actually been there, but Jim was a prevaricator of Gargantuan dimensions, who loved to make the tenderfoot's eyes pop, and the normal fate of a big liar is that when he tells the truth nobody believes him. It is incredible that the Sublettes and the Smiths and Fitzpatricks and the French voyageurs who saw the nipple peaks of the Range called Tetons from the Idaho side and named them—these men who rendezvoused in the "holes" no great distance south of the Yellowstone crater—could have failed to know about the wonders there. But the great American public knew no more of this region than they did of Mars, and it was a fact that when a poor wight who *did*

know sent an article to a New York magazine describing in modest terms a few of the things he had seen, the manuscript came back with the tart remark, "We are not at present in the market for fiction."

In the 1870 exploration party that set out from Helena were Gen. Henry D. Washburn, Nathaniel P. Langford, Samuel T. Hauser, later governor of the State, and—Hedges. The troops were commanded by a young and verdant West Point shavetail named Gustavus C. Doane. The soldiers were to protect the party from Indians, but actually they were never in danger. Folsom and Cook had been in the region the previous year, and had returned with unlifted scalps and stories of the marvels to be encountered there, which strangely enough made little impression. It is even said that Folsom had already proposed that this matchless ground be made a park. But there you are! That was the importance of the Washburn-Doane visit. They advertised. They dramatized. By iteration damnable or otherwise, they buttonholed and proselyted, becoming great nuisances to the conventional mind, as ardent conservationists are likely to be, until even the most apathetic legislator said wearily, "These fellows are mad; give 'em what they want and take them off my neck."

And they were bulwarked by that chaste advantage that the idealist always has over the "practical" man: to wit, that he may be excessive or he may be wrong, but he is not acting from self-interest. For, naturally enough this exploring party having proved the deposits and sampled the ore, had first thoughts of profit. What a place this was to file claims and set up in the business of showing the marvels to the public! Already mobile Americans would come in droves; would need habitation and sustenance. A gold mine for each of them! Nay, better than that, for this orebody would never fault out.

It is said that when Cornelius Hedges gave his opinion around the campfire that the place was too fine, too sacred almost, for any individuals to exploit, and one by one (you can believe with some reluctance) the rest agreed—there was just one man who remained unconvinced. He is unnamed; and anyway, I don't think he was at all a

* While stated for the first time in law, this was by no means the first time that national park preservation principles were set forth publicly. As early as August 8, 1865, in a report before the Yosemite Commission entitled, "The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865," Frederick Law Olmsted said: "The first point to be kept in mind then is the preservation and maintenance as exactly as is possible of the natural scenery; the restriction, that is to say, within the narrowest limits consistent with the necessary accommodation of visitors, of all artificial constructions and the prevention of all constructions markedly inharmonious with the scenery or which would unnecessarily obscure, distort, or detract from the dignity of the scenery . . . Second: it is important that it should be remembered that in permitting the sacrifice of anything that would be of the slightest value to future visitors to the convenience, bad taste, playfulness, carelessness, or wanton destructiveness of present visitors, we probably yield in each case the interest of uncounted millions to the selfishness of a few individuals."

As Laura Wood Roper has commented in *Landscape Architecture* for October 1952, "With this single report, in short, Olmsted formulated a philosophic base for the creation of state and national parks." However, Miss Roper adds, "This unique document never reached the legislature," and the original copy was only re-discovered in August, 1952.

Three years after this Olmsted report of 1865, John Muir came to Yosemite. "His profound devotion to the Sierra," says Hans Huth in *Yosemite: The Story of An Idea*, "brought a new era in spreading the glory of Yosemite." Muir's writings together with photographs and paintings by Thomas A. Ayres, C. E. Watkins and Thomas Hill (Yosemite) and Thomas Moran and William H. Jackson (Yellowstone) served as much as any other element in this early period to place the national park idea before the public.—Editor.

wicked man, with an evil eye upon several pieces of silver. I think he was quite human. It was Hedges and those who agreed with him who were unusual. In the presence of so much beauty and so great a display of the colossal forces of nature, they became strangely enlightened and more than themselves. Just as to this day there are decent men who see nothing wrong in slaughtering a virgin forest, the last of its kind, in the name of using natural resources for human welfare. You don't have to hate such folks, who may be good husbands and fathers and kind to dogs. You merely have to sit upon them plumply and try to make them see that human welfare demands

lowstone Park set apart for the use of all the people without distinction of rank or wealth."

It was, indeed, a pathfinder. As the years passed and other public domain too precious in meaning, quality and value to the human spirit began to be similarly set apart for the higher enjoyment of the people, it became a thing less and less novel to effect. There were always objectors; there were, and will continue to be sharpshooters whose imaginations are limited to the making of the swift dollar, but now the principle is taken as a matter of course. And this brings me finally to what I have less often seen mentioned as following from the crea-

But with the coming of Yellowstone National Park, conservation, in the sense we are now using this word, had if not a birth, at least a common acceptance of its existence as a political and social force.

Legislation can set a park aside, but we cannot ignore the fact that later legislation can annul, vitiate, emasculate. The ultimate integrity of the parks—it is almost too trite to say—lies in the body of preservationists who will fight for and defend to the last ditch the concept of their vital place in national life. That there is such a body dates, I believe, from the epic scene where the Firehole and the Gibbon become the Madison. ■



The National Archives

An 1872 W. H. Jackson photo (left) of first superintendent "National Park" Langford on Jupiter Terrace, Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park. Through his photos, Jackson



The National Archives (above)—like his contemporary artists and photographers in both Yosemite and Yellowstone—did much to dispel the early skepticism about the wonders of these first national parks.

greater values than are found in planed lumber.

General Hiram M. Chittenden in his book "Yellowstone National Park," had these words for the civic virtue of Hedges and his fellows and the bill signed by Grant: "It was a notable act, not only on account of the transcendent importance of the territory it was designed to protect, but because it was a marked innovation in the traditional policy of government. From time immemorial privileged classes have been protected by law in the withdrawal, for their exclusive enjoyment, of immense tracts for forests, parks and game preserves. But never before was a region of such vast extent as the Yel-

lowstone National Park.

The act itself could not stand alone. Inevitably it led to the establishment of a government agency especially dedicated to protect and make available this natural wealth. So came into being the National Park Service. But it did far more than that. It solidified and gave coherence to "conservation," in the special sense of "preservation," as a powerful force. There was probably never a time entirely lacking in a number—however small—of people who felt the essential need of safeguarding from commerce the spiritual and irreplaceable things. But there had never been very many and they had usually spoken softly in a small circle.

Act of March 1, 1872

... The tract of land in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming, lying near the head-waters of the Yellowstone river (etc.) is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale . . . and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people . . . Regulations shall provide for the preservation, from injury or spoilation, of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, or wonders within said park, and their retention in their natural condition . . . (and) shall provide against the wanton destruction of the fish and game . . .



A History of the National Park Service

By Carl P. Russell

ON January 10, 1909, a leading California newspaper editorialized on a proposed reservoir site within the twenty-year-old Yosemite National Park:

"The contest in Congress against granting us the use of Hetch-Hetchy reservoir site is led by the sentimentalists. . . The use of the Hetch-Hetchy Valley as a reservoir site will affect the esthetic situation in two ways: First, it will make the valley far more attractive than it now is. . . Second, it will enable 100 persons to see it where one will see it in its present condition. It is virtually inaccessible now. . . Any pretense that it must be preserved for 'posterity' is nonsense. We do not know what posterity will want. Posterity probably will not contain so many fools. . . .

"The majority of the visitors to the Yosemite Valley are not and never will be sentimentalists. They will be hard-headed and solid men, with their families, who have got the money to get to Yosemite by the grossly unsentimental process of buying and selling. The 'sensibilities' of such people would be far less likely to be 'uplifted' to 'noble aspirations' in camping in a valley and trying to peek up to the top of the mountains than to be rasped and tortured by seeing good water run to waste. Sentimentalism as it is sought to be applied to this Hetch-Hetchy question is rot. It is evidence of weak nerves in a degenerate race."

This determination of the people of San Francisco to raid the people's park and their subsequent success in taking

Hetch-Hetchy Valley were early and impressive evidences that passage of a

Dr. Russell entered the National Park Service in 1923 at Yosemite National Park, California. He has subsequently served as Chief of the Service's Museum and Wildlife Divisions; Director of Region One, Richmond, Virginia; Chief Naturalist, Washington, 1939-47; Superintendent, Yosemite, 1947-52; and Interpretive Planner, Western Office of Design and Construction, from 1955 until his retirement in 1957. He is author of *One Hundred Years in Yosemite, Primitive Playgrounds* and many articles on national park protection, interpretation, wildlife and history. (In the photograph above, Stephen T. Mather, first director of the National Park Service, inspects trails of Glacier National Park. Photo by Hileman.)

National Park Act was not in itself a guarantee of preservation.

At the time of the quoted editorial, the Congress had established ten national parks, and there were thirty-two national monuments, archeological reserves, battlefield parks, and miscellaneous historical preserves. Some of these had resulted from Congressional action, and others had been created by executive orders or Presidential proclamations. The ten national parks were administered by the Department of the Interior with assistance in field management and protective work (in Crater Lake, Yellowstone, and the California parks) from the U. S. Army. The national monuments, battlefield parks, and related reservations were under the War Department if they were primarily of military significance; under the Department of Agriculture if they were in or adjacent to national forests; and the Department of the Interior was responsible for others. As might be expected, this division of trusts and duties engendered confusion as to accountability and encouraged such predatory acts as that perpetrated in the Hetch-Hetchy steal. Further, there were no agreed-upon criteria for the selection of any new areas, no definition of objectives in public services, no clear-cut policy of management, and no central office in which the administration of parks and monuments could be coordinated. An impressive example of the lack of unanimity in meeting park problems is seen in the action of the head of the then new Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, in aiding and abetting the Hetch-Hetchy raid.

The name of Dr. J. Horace McFarland shines forth in the record of the civic action which ultimately brought about an integration of park protective work through the creation of the National Park Service. In 1908, Dr. McFarland addressed Theodore Roosevelt's Conference of the Governors. His opening gun:

"Natural Scenery—America's *greatest* asset! The national parks, all too few in number and extent, ought to be absolutely inviolate. . . We have for a century, Mr. Chairman, stood actually for an uglier America; let us here and now resolve . . . to stand openly and solidly for a more beautiful America . . . hold inviolate our great scenic heritage."



National Park Service

These pre-1900 visitors are approaching Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road. The few visitors in these early years would not have conceived of the millions of motorized Americans who would take their place a half-century later.

For the next eight years Dr. McFarland worked incessantly in arousing public interest in the need for a federal bureau to administer the parks. President Taft was won to the cause and he addressed the Congress in 1912 in behalf of a bureau which could bring uniformity to the management of parks. In 1912 and 1913 National Park Service bills were introduced but they did not obtain even a committee report. Nevertheless, McFarland hammered away both in Congress and outside, never relaxing in his drive to keep the National Park Service movement active.

In 1915 Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, prevailed upon Stephen T. Mather, Chicago businessman, to come to Washington as Assistant to the Secretary in charge of national parks. Horace M. Albright, a

24-year-old law student already at work on research jobs in the Department of the Interior, was assigned to the new office as Mather's assistant. The work of that year pertained very largely to the creation of a political climate favorable to the passage of a National Park Service Act.

In December, 1915, Mather, Congressman William Kent, Congressman John E. Raker, editor Robert Sterling Yard, Robert B. Marshall, Horace M. Albright, Enos Mills, Gilbert Grosvenor, Henry A. Barker, Richard B. Watrous, J. Horace McFarland, and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., put their heads together in shaping another bill. It featured a statement of policy, the language of which originated with Olmsted: the objective of the bureau is "to conserve the scenery and the

(Continued on page 10)

In 1920, a short distance from the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers, Superintendent Albright of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, explains the origin of the national park idea to members of the House Appropriations Committee.

National Park Service



Leaders in the National Park Movement

◆ THE NATIONAL PARK CONCEPT . . .



Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.



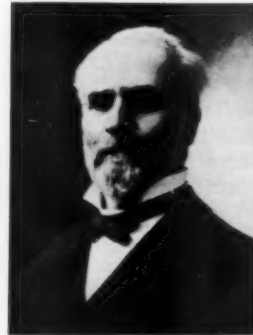
John Muir

Dassonville



Cornelius Hedges

Haynes



Nathaniel P. Langford

Haynes



Gen. Henry D. Washburn

Haynes

The names Olmsted and Muir are an integral part of the Yosemite history of the national park idea. In 1865 Olmsted presented a full-blown and far-sighted philosophy of national park preservation and use, while Muir dedicated his writings and his life to further-

ing public knowledge and appreciation of the whole Sierr Washburn and Doane were the essential members of the expedition when Hedges first suggested establishing Yellowstone.

◆ THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

McFarland and Olmsted, Jr., contributed immensely toward the establishment of the National Park Service—McFarland as an active promoter of the agency in the decade prior to 1916, Olmsted as author of the key preservation phrase in the



Stephen T. Mather
Director: 1917-29

Park Service Act. Mather and Albright were the executives who determined the initial course of the Service. Cammerer, Drury and Demaray carried the torch handed down and contributed to the further shaping of Park Service policy.



J. Horace McFarland



Horace M. Albright
Director: 1929-33



Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.



Arno B. Cammerer
Director: 1933-40



Newton B. Drury
Director: 1940-51



Arthur E. Demaray
Director: 1951

◆ THE NATIONAL PARKS



Robert Sterling Yard
First Executive Secretary



Henry B. F. MacFarland
President: 1919-21



Herbert Hoover
President: 1924-25



George Bird Grinnell
President: 1925-29



Cloyd Heck Marvin
President: 1933-35



William F. Wharton
President: 1935-33

♦ TODAY'S LEADERS . . .

Anthony Wayne Smith
Executive Secretary
National Parks Association



Conrad L. Wirth
Director
National Park Service



Sigurd F. Olson
President
National Parks Association



As head of the National Park Service, Mr. Wirth has a most difficult task. He must strive to regulate use of national parks so as to assure their preservation for all succeeding generations. In so doing, he has the support of the National Parks Association and its leaders, Mr. Smith and Mr. Olson. Below, the granite spires of the Three Brothers are reflected in the Merced River, Yosemite National Park, California.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION



F. MacFarland
President: 1919-21



Charles D. Wolcott
President: 1921-24



Bird Grinnell
President: 1925-29



Wallace W. Atwood
President: 1929-33



P. Wharton
Executive Secretary: 1935-53



Devereux Butcher
Executive Secretary: 1942-50
Editor: 1942-57



PARK SERVICE HISTORY

(Continued from page 7)

natural and historic objects and the wildlife [of Service areas] and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

After a good deal of maneuvering, and with a few compromises, the long-awaited action was taken by the House and the Senate. President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill on August 25, 1916. The new bureau was organized in 1917, and in the face of war and with pitifully small funds, proceeded to launch the desired coordinated program of administration for the national parks and monuments then under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

One of the mileposts established at this time was Secretary Lane's "policy letter" of May 1, 1918, setting forth *standards of selection and standards of treatment for the areas selected*. The ideals of selection defined by Lane were modified a little when Secretary Work came to office a few years later, but, generally, the first definitions were excellent and withstood the tests of time and practice. The policies of 1918 are still the basic policies out of which grow the regulations governing protection, development, and use in today's national parks. The weighty policy question of providing roads suitable for automobiles was answered in favor of the motorist, when a road engineering office was set up in Portland, Oregon in 1917. Thus was the die cast in the matter of heavy public use.

From the very beginning, Mather's concept of protection for the parks included a scheme of public enlightenment. Because Government funds could not be obtained for the purpose, he met the costs personally (until July 1918) in bringing an accomplished writer, Robert Sterling Yard, to his Washington organization. Also Mather, personally, took over a huge program of public relations work which placed a drain upon both his pocketbook and his physical strength.

Mather sensed that the recognition of the finer meanings of policy and the effectiveness of law and regulation could be no better than the perceptiveness of his park employees. In conducting his program of in-service training,

he did not adopt formal classroom methods but concentrated on the shaping of attitudes among superintendents and other key men. In this Albright played a part. Perhaps some "old timers" in the existing organization will disagree with me in referring to this marshalling of thought and the informal coaching as a "program"; yet the elements of instruction and wise discipline were there, as some of us recall and as anyone may read in the records of the early conferences and staff meetings. The assemblies of personnel in the Mather day were comparatively small and the discourses were intimate. There was ample opportunity for discussion and absorption. To Stephen Mather the success of public contact work in the field areas was paramount, and he stressed this idea in his talks and writings and in his practical action in establishing park naturalist programs—programs which had their inspiration in certain European methods brought to America by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Goethe. The present-day recognition of interpretive work as *vital* descends directly from Mather's precept and example in initiating the work in 1920.

Another of Mather's accomplishments was winning the confidence of Congress in the integrity of the Service program. Of like importance was his success in awakening in the people of the United States a better interest in and appreciation for the natural wonders of our land. This achievement continues to this day to "pay off" for all who engage in any type of parks work or nature protection. It is not extravagant to say, also, that it has had world-wide influence in these fields.

For fourteen years Mr. Mather remained at the helm. In the fall of 1928 he suffered a stroke which partially paralyzed him. Albright was named Director.

The experienced Albright had no difficulty in holding the gains already made and in continuing with the work of rounding out the system of areas. Carrying through with a Mather-made advisory committee, he explored interpretive needs on a Service-wide basis. A Branch of Research and Education was established in 1930. The acquisition of the George Washington Birthplace and Colonial National Monu-

ments, both in Virginia, and the Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey put the National Park Service into the business of preserving and interpreting great historic places in the East. This new responsibility added to the prestige of its Branch of Research and Education and paved the way for a mighty surge of effort in conducting a nation-wide program of historical work. The weight of this new program in the amenities and its very distinctive character made of it a bulwark in fending off attacks by some of the commercially-minded foresters and lumber men who sought to transfer the national parks to the Department of Agriculture.*

On June 10, 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt consolidated the administration of national monuments, historical parks, national memorials, national cemeteries, public buildings, and national parks under a new bureau, "The Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations." Thirty areas (national historical parks, national military parks, national battlefield sites, national memorials, and national monuments) were transferred from the War Department; twelve national monuments came from Agriculture. This was rather more expansion than had been anticipated by anyone in the Service, but soon the "live" or unfilled cemeteries were returned to the War Department, and in 1935 the bureau recovered its name, National Park Service. By 1939 the Public Buildings Administration was created to take over the unbecoming duties related to buildings.

In 1932-33 another new element in Service programs, national parkways, was initiated when the Skyline Drive was built in the Blue Ridge. The New Deal created still other programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps, Civilian Works Administration, and the Public Works Administration, which were to bring about an entirely new era in the Service. At this time Albright left to enter the field of commerce.

*In 1930, the Society of American Foresters proposed "A Plan for Reorganizing Federal Conservation Activities" in which this transfer was stressed. This and similar threats were countered by Secretary Ickes during his years as head of the Department of the Interior (1933-45) by advocating that national forests join national parks in a new "Department of Conservation."

Associate Director Arno B. Cammerer succeeded to the Directorship on August 10, 1933. The coordination of relief programs and the accompanying fiscal work brought new opportunities far exceeding anything ever visualized by parks people. It also imposed a tremendous responsibility upon those officials who sought to maintain the parks "unimpaired." In the seven years of Cammerer's Directorship the Service expended some \$218,000,000 on such work as forest protection, a great variety of park maintenance and development projects, a wide-spread program of recreational demonstration areas designed to serve the States, and the highly successful Historic American Buildings Survey. Some 30,000 workers participated in these activities in hundreds of localities all over the United States.

Regionalization of the emergency programs led to a scheme of permanent regional offices in 1937 which still give some decentralization of Service administration. One of the great advances in Cammerer's time was the passage in 1935 of the Historic Sites Act, defining policy in the preservation of the nation's historic places. A separate Branch of History was established to handle this important program.

In 1936 came the Park, Parkway and Recreation Act providing for Service cooperation with the States in conserving lands and water. Outside engineers were linked with this program, sometimes to the discomfiture of the Service. However, politically the recreational work rolled on in mighty waves of approbation and it persists as an important part of the Service program. These various innovations and expanded activities set the pattern for the present-day National Park Service.

Average annual appropriations, not counting the staggering allotments for emergency and relief programs, had increased about 50% but were still insufficient to enable the Service to maintain the great physical plant the New Deal had set going.

Cammerer, worn down by his arduous labors, gave up the Directorship in the summer of 1940. Newton B. Drury was made Director on August 20, 1940, just about in time to receive the ruinous strokes delivered by a wartime economy. Great numbers of keymen of the Service went to the armed forces,

and appropriations shrunk to a point making it most difficult to retain some of the offices vital to operation. Service headquarters moved to Chicago, which circumstances brought further complications as employees sought reorientation. "Production" interests almost immediately threatened invasion of the parks under the guise of war necessity. Park timber, minerals, water, and forage repeatedly became the targets of organized groups seeking these resources so "essential to victory." The fact that the National Park System weathered this five-year storm practically unscathed reflects everlasting credit upon Drury and his assistants, both in the Service and in his advisory groups outside of the Service.

When the war ended in 1945, there came the travel boom which has known no end. Gradually, it was possible to overcome some of the handicaps occasioned by the wartime cessation in development programs, reduction in staffs, and the general deterioration which accompanied heavy use by visitors and inadequate appropriations. However, the physical setup in field areas during the first ten years after World War II remained very much as it had been in 1941, yet the increase in use jumped more than 100%. The attendant discomfort and displeasure of the people was probably less a tragedy than was the abuse of park features vandalized or destroyed through excessive use. Yet the Bureau of the Budget and the Secretary of the Interior "sat tight" year after year in the idea that there were more important demands to be met in allotting such funds as became available.

When Drury's tour of duty terminated April 1, 1951, he had left a

special mark upon national park philosophy. For throughout his career, he had reaffirmed the policy, "Promotion of outdoor recreation, or modification of the nature of areas by developments to accommodate it [recreation] to the point of impairing their primary purposes is not in accord with national park objectives."

Arthur E. Demaray, who as Associate Director had participated in the administrative work of all the preceding Directors, took over the reins from Drury. During his brief time as Director, he slanted Service thinking toward the primacy of field programs and re-emphasized regional offices.

In the late fall of 1951, Demaray retired, and Conrad L. Wirth became Director. With his invention of the magic formula, Mission 66, the one-year-at-a-time plan for meeting the overwhelming needs of the parks was replaced by a ten-year program of planning, developing, staffing and financing—something that I feel has met with hearty approval everywhere.

The reorganization of 1954 brought two field offices for design and construction: one in Philadelphia, the other in San Francisco. In 1955 a fifth regional office was established in Philadelphia. The accelerated program of development of facilities, like all such earlier programs, rests upon the park master plan, which delimits the maximum development necessary to meet the requirements of staff and public.

Today, with National Park Service duties and services still expanding, there are 29 national parks and 150 other established areas being preserved for enjoyment by Americans of this and future generations. ■

The first car to enter Yellowstone National Park did so ceremoniously on August 1, 1915 with Robert Sterling Yard as Stephen Mather's representative (left rear—nearest to viewer). Nearly a half-million cars entered the park in 1958.



The NPA and Stephen Mather



By Huston Thompson

I MET Stephen Tyng Mather for the first time in the old Cosmos Club in Washington, D. C., in 1915. His chief, Secretary Franklin K. Lane of the Interior Department, was introducing him around. As I was Assistant Attorney General under Woodrow Wilson, Lane thought to bring us together.

Mather was a tall, handsome, lean fellow with a ready smile and a good controversial comeback. He had had a fine college education, a successful turn as a newspaper man in New York and was an outstanding businessman. He had arrived in Washington because his criticism of the national parks had caused his college-mate Lane to challenge him to take over the parks. Lane gave Mather carte blanche to reorganize and enlarge the park system.

Of all the men I have ever known in Washington, Mather was the most active physically and in many ways mentally. At the age of forty, Mather had already made a fortune in the borax business. Politics meant little to him. He had been a Republican, while Lane was a Democrat, but this was no handicap to their relationship.

At the time I came in touch with him, Yellowstone and Yosemite were being supervised by our Army. In Yellowstone the usual method of getting around was by buckboard, and a complete trip took five or six delightful days. But the automobile was coming into use, and Mather recognized that it would eventually push the buckboard off the park roads despite the present opposition of the concessioners.

In order to get public backing for the changes that he contemplated, Mather went back to his press colleagues and enlisted their efforts in newspaper or magazine articles. He lobbied constantly at the Capitol and he took, at his own expense, groups of financially essential senators and congressmen through the parks. In this way he turned critics into boosters and swung into line those who had previously crimped the park appropriations.

I accompanied Mather and his political friends on one of these trips through the parks and forests that he believed should be classed as parks. On these trips Mather was here, there and everywhere. In the evenings we assembled around the campfire and argued and debated the relationship to forest or park of the land that we had covered on horseback during the day. Thus, we were expected to advise Mather or his opposite, Mr. Graves of the Forest Service, who at that time was traveling with us.

Steve would go over the park issues of the day and spell out his views. To him the parks meant a place of rest and restoration or inspiration. The silence of the wooded places and the far-out distances of the parks meant physical refreshment to him.

He wanted nothing destroyed that could be saved. On one occasion when we were traveling along the eastern slopes of the Sierra, he came upon a spot where many sheep had been pastured too long and the grass clipped too closely, and he raged. To this day I can hear his angry voice when he beheld for the first time the half-dead trees that were left partially under the water when the Snake River dam was built south of Yellowstone. It took the beauty of the Tetons to restore him to normal good feeling.

Looking to the future, he often said he feared that people might rush across the parks in their autos, thus missing the curative powers and destroying them for others. No one was more anxious to draw people to these parks. But no one feared more their deadly desecration. Once I remember his talking of compelling the automobiles to park outside of Yosemite. He wanted the citizens to have comfort inside the parks, but he wanted haste and speed to halt at their gates.

Mather had been remarkably successful in putting through legislation, absorbing new park sites and teaching and guiding Congress. But he felt that the restriction of his governmental office limited him. He wanted groups on the outside that felt as he did to help him in his work, particularly in matters upon which a public official could not take a positive stand.

He sought the influence of organizations and of people to protect the parks and to check the thoughtless and the greedy. So he began to talk about some kind of a grouping that would help him to fight on the outside. This idea became so dominant that he drew around him men who felt as he did and on May 29, 1919, he organized the National Parks Association in the old Cosmos Club on Jackson Place, diagonally across from the White House.

The articles of incorporation of the Association were signed by five of the most distinguished men in the city of Washington. They were Charles D. Walcott, J. Walter Fewkes, Henry B. F. MacFarland, W. H. Holmes, H. K. Bush-Brown and Robert Sterling Yard. This group had been very active individually, but now they assembled their efforts together and became more effective and efficient. Robert Sterling Yard was put at the head of the organization. He was a devout conservationist, but at times he and Mather differed as to just what should be done at the moment. For some years Mather paid the salary of Yard.

Much that the members did, Mather could not do in his official position. They advised with him and then went out individually or in groups to help put over what was agreed upon. They publicized the parks throughout the United States and they helped to make them popular with its people, just as the organization has been seeking to do in all the years of its existence. ■

A distinguished Washington attorney, Huston Thompson is a former Assistant Attorney General of the U.S., Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, Assistant Attorney General of Colorado, and author of the first draft of the Security and Exchange Act. He was a member of the original National Parks Educational Committee which formed the National Parks Association in 1919, and he continues to serve as an active member of the Association's Executive Committee.

Forty Years Defending Parks

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

FOR the past forty years the National Parks Association has sought to maintain high standards for national parks through public education. With its early NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN, its books, pamphlets and news releases, and later its NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, the Association has charted an undeviating course in support of four objectives:

(1) To protect the integrity of national parks and monuments . . . (2) To promote the enjoyment of the national parks and monuments . . . without impairment of the original features . . . (3) To encourage the enlargement of the system of parks and monuments of national significance . . . (4) To cooperate with governmental agencies and private non-profit organizations in the protection of such national parks . . .

In addition to its purely educational role, the Association has felt compelled to fight for national park standards whenever and wherever they were challenged—whether the proposal be an effort to dam Yellowstone Lake in the historic old park, to log the magnificent rain forests of Olympic National Park or to permit mining in a little-known monument in southern Arizona. The tempestuous early history of the organization includes both close cooperation and violent antagonism between the group and various Secretaries of Interior. The record shows, however, that such disagreement has resulted from variations in the national park policy of succeeding government officials rather than any changes in Association policy.

While there have been differences of opinion among the men who determine the Association's policy in given actions, the basic principles of the group have remained stable and are now firmer and more explicit than ever. The policy statement (see page 16) as adopted and revised by the Association in the past decade is merely a formalization—and an application to specific cases—of the guiding prin-

ciples to which the Association has adhered since its first meeting in May of 1919.

"We have a government agency to care for the parks. Why have a private organization, too?" This question, raised from time to time by those who first come in contact with the Association or its magazine, can be simply answered: A private non-profit, charitable, educational, and scientific organization, operating entirely independently of the government, is needed to uphold the high standards of national parks and to promote their welfare. This is true because—while the National Park Service was established in 1916 with the highest idealism, and is charged by law with conserving "the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"—the hard facts are that the Park Service is subject to political and commercial pressures which would alter this historic concept, to permit damming park rivers for power and irrigation, logging the forests, mining the minerals, grazing livestock on park meadows, and constructing urban-type amusement centers that would destroy the primitive beauty so important to all Americans. Only a vigilant, informed public can assure that these wonderful areas remain intact.

Officially founded just three years after the establishment of the Service, the Association has always offered individuals a ready means by which they could play a part in helping the Park Service to resist these pressures and to protect the parks, thus insuring that they will be passed on unimpaired to our children and grandchildren.

The early origins of the National Parks Association were described by its first Executive Secretary, Robert Sterling Yard, in reports made in 1922 and 1930:

"On June 18, 1918, with the cooperation of our late devoted President, Henry B. F. MacFarland, a number of scientific men from government and the universities, and a few conservationists of the quality of George Bird Grinnell and John B. Burnham, the National Parks Educational Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles D. Walcott to consider ways and means. This committee was (later) extended to include nearly a hundred members, principally educators, in many states. The somewhat scrappy but fairly full minutes of the National Parks Educational Committee prove it the blood father of the Association."

After a year's study of the problems of the national parks and how a non-governmental organization might best work to further their aims, the Educational Committee met on May 29, 1919, in Washington's old Cosmos Club on

At the 1915 dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park are (left to right) Stephen T. Mather, Robert Sterling Yard, Acting Superintendent Trowbridge, first Park Service photographer Cowling and Horace M. Albright



National Park Service

Lafayette Square and merged into the National Parks Association. This new body was organized, Yard records, "with the dual purpose of realizing the educational opportunity by promoting united action among educational institutions and school systems the country over, and of bringing the people of the whole country into the work of developing a sound national park system." Upon the establishment of the Association, the former educational committee became a ways and means committee of the new organization with Huston Thompson as its chairman. Henry B. F. MacFarland, a prominent Washington lawyer, was elected first president of the Association and Yard was elected Executive Secretary.

Upon organization, Yard resigned his position as chief of the National Park Service educational section, and the Association rented desk room in the offices of the American Civic Association until the following autumn, when it moved to 1512 H Street, N.W. in Washington, D. C.

While education had been its primary reason for establishment and while the embryo organization had fully intended to devote most of its efforts in this direction, events transpired in April, 1920, which laid new and heavy burdens of duty upon the Association. This duty was concerned primarily with defending the national park system from a powerful combination of business interests who were seeking "to destroy once for all the principle of complete conservation of our national parks." This movement, as Yard commented, "came in logical sequence following the precedent established by the Hetch-Hetchy invasion of Yosemite National Park a few years before and the swift growth of population in the western states." Thus the Association was forced to take a promi-

nent part in the defensive battle against park invasion.

The War on Parks

The "war on national parks" in the early 1920's was led by Senator Walsh of Montana, Congressman Smith of Idaho and Secretary of Interior Albert B. Fall of New Mexico. At the time of the resignation of Secretary Fall in March 1923, the NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN commented:

"With the passing of Secretary Fall on March 4 will pass the greatest danger that the national park system has yet encountered. The Fall policy sought to debase the national park system to a merely recreational system and enormously expand it, while incidentally abolishing its scenic distinction and its conservation. 'Wherever in the public lands I can find a pleasant place for local people to go up and camp,' Fall said to (Yard) on July 19, 1922, 'there I shall have a national park.'"

One of Fall's prime interests immediately prior to his resignation was a so-called "All-Year National Park." "His bill," Yard noted soon after Fall's resignation, "called for a dozen little spots in the Mescalero Indian Reservation and in the adjoining desert, introducing every kind of industrial precedent into the national park system. His diversion of the All-Year National Park bill, disguised as an Indian bill, to the wrong committee and his success in slipping it through a small and weary Senate session without revealing its real purpose, constitute (with his hot fight of the winter to force it through the House) the most dramatic episode in national parks history."

Later that year, Yard commented on several other local, low-standard areas expected to be proposed for inclusion in the national park and monument system. Such areas, he noted, would enclose neither scenery of national importance nor sufficient area for fitting administration and the accommodation of park visitors. Moreover, "(Such a park) will open the door to scores of others, inviting wide competition for little local national parks. We must permit no such precedent. National park standards must not be lowered. Those from whose minds the local interest hides the national view must learn or yield. Neither must the name be prostituted to the advertisement of local-

ities, nor will the nation stand for the national park pork barrel that inevitably will follow the opening of the system to local competition."

With the appointment of Dr. Hubert Work as Secretary of the Interior to succeed Fall, the Association's outlook on the future of national parks brightened considerably. His pronouncements that "our national parks have been set aside by the American Government to be maintained untouched by the inroads of modern civilization" agreed entirely with Yard's thinking. His refinement of the ideals for selection of new areas (originally set forth by Secretary Lane in 1918) was widely quoted by the organization:

"Municipal and state parks and national forests together offer outdoor opportunities in countless numbers, and are easily accessible. The (federal) government finds itself duplicating these areas down to the smallest picnic park. We have gotten away from the fundamental principle that the (federal) government should do nothing an individual municipality or state can do for itself, and we are competing in little things, benumbing public spirit and thwarting local pride of possession and development."

Dr. Merriam and Education

In February 1927, taking an ever greater interest in its educational program, the Association established a 16-man Advisory Board on Educational and Inspirational Use of National Parks under the leadership of Dr. John C. Merriam, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. In explaining the Board's purpose, Dr. Merriam said:

"We seek to give people a chance to see and comprehend not only the birds and animals and flowers in our national parks, but the vast thing which is behind them. We must set up for use the most valuable materials the parks possess, not

NPA PRESIDENTS

Henry B. F. MacFarland, 1919-21
Charles D. Walcott, 1921-24
Herbert Hoover, 1924-25
George Bird Grinnell, 1925-29
Wallace W. Atwood, 1929-33
Cloyd Heck Marvin, 1933-35
William P. Wharton, 1935-53
Sigurd F. Olson, 1953-

NPA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Robert Sterling Yard, 1919-31
Loren W. Barclay, 1931-33
James A. Foote, 1936-39
Edward B. Ballard, 1940-42
Devereux Butcher, 1942-50
Fred M. Packard, 1950-1958
Anthony Wayne Smith, 1958-

for teaching science, only, but for realizing whatever else it is behind these wonderful spectacles that we call inspiration. Everyone who sees, sees something. Our part is to make sure that he sees it right. Upon the mind of each who sees is made a permanent impression which has a permanent effect, influencing, perhaps, all his future conceptions. It is this effect which concerns us."

The specific task to which the committee devoted itself was planning the improved interpretation of Grand Canyon National Park by selecting fifteen to twenty features visible through a telescope from Yavapai Point as examples of the geological story of the canyon. In making such selections and in correlating the features with a relief map, pamphlets, and trails leading down to the specific canyon locations, "this group was shaping the first exhibit of a new era of outdoor education."

During the early 1930's, the Association was vitally concerned about the economy move in the federal government which would have grouped the conservation agencies into one bureau. A committee studying this matter pointed out in 1933 that the Park Service is educational in function and should not be grouped with bureaus dealing with economic development.

At this same time, as the Presidential Reorganization of 1933 placed "parks, memorials and monuments, the Washington city parks, memorial drives, recreational highways, national cemeteries, and Federal buildings" under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, the Association showed great concern lest the "National Primeval Parks" be lost in the vast expansion.

Referring to the original national park system—which had been considered as the "national gallery of American scenic masterpieces" and the "national outdoor museum of original America"—the *Bulletin* in 1936 asked, "Will its lustre be dimmed by discordant association, its freshness and beauty marred by the trampling of many sight-seers, its dignity and usefulness killed by crowded motor roads? . . . Will its identity be lost and its standards confused by continued official neglect to distinguish it from the national historical parks and others?"

The ever-present threat of precedent

is interwoven in the Association's concern here and elsewhere, for as Yard noted, "There is no motive more influential than precedent. It works when your back is turned, and after many years."

During the past 25 years, under the leadership of Presidents William P. Wharton and Sigurd F. Olson and Executive Secretaries Devereux Butcher and Fred M. Packard, and with the guidance of an active board of trustees and executive committee, the Association has continued to support the establishment of areas of national park or monument caliber and has opposed—despite the sometimes unpopular nature of its stand—the inclusion of areas lacking these qualities. With the help of sister conservation groups, it has fought the continuing threats of commercial interests, resort developments and other non-conforming uses, as these have presented themselves at Rocky Mountain, Olympic, Mount Rainier, Glacier, Mammoth Cave and Grand Canyon national parks and at Organ Pipe Cactus, (the former) Jackson Hole, Joshua Tree, Dinosaur, and White Sands national monuments.

In 1927, Yard listed three primary threats to national parks and to the Association's accomplishment of its objectives: (1) the industrial companies which want to use the parks for profit; (2) communities which want to attract profitable motor crowds by offering local national parks developed and maintained at the expense of the national government; and (3) one-idea enthusiasts for unlimited recreational expansion, who call for new and enormous national parks irrespective of the established standards. To these three must now be added: (4) military agencies which sometimes fail to distinguish between public lands set aside as national parks and monuments and "wastelands" available for bombing and missile practice, and (5) other public agencies who want to use park lands for economic purposes.

Public Understanding Needed

The fundamental danger now facing our national parks, however, is lack of public understanding of the nature, purpose and use limitations of these areas. Through the medium of its NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE and the former NATIONAL PARKS BULLETIN, the

Association has worked and will continue to work to correct this.

Since 1957, the Association has sponsored a volunteer "Student Conservation Program" to aid the National Park Service and to offer conservation experience to high school, college and graduate students. The Association's book publishing program, under the authorship of Devereux Butcher, has included *Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments*, *Exploring the National Parks of Canada*, and *Exploring Our Prehistoric Indian Ruins*.

Under its new leadership, the Association now plans to expand further its program of stimulating wider understanding of parks in schools and colleges. It is expected that this will include the provision of materials, the initiation of courses, the encouragement of the training of teachers, with regard to the nature, significance, and operation of the American system of national parks and monuments.

The NPA must continue to assume a major role in explaining the distinctive national park concept. For as Dr. Harold Bradley, President of the Sierra Club, has stated, "If we are to preserve our parks from deteriorating from their fundamental high purpose, we must keep that purpose clear in the public mind. Full co-operation and collaboration will be needed between the (National Park) Service, the (park) concessioners and the conservationists. Preservation of the parks can be assured only by educated public opinion."—B. M. K.; L. S.

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A NATIONAL POLICY

For National Parks and Monuments

This declaration of policy is a revision of the standards originally developed by the Camp Fire Club of America in 1923 and endorsed by nearly a hundred organizations, including the National Parks Association. Offered by the Association to help crystallize fundamental ideals, it is based on the thinking of the National Park Service and a number of organizations and individuals through the years since the establishment of the first national park in 1872.

DEFINITIONS

National Parks

National parks are spacious land and water areas of nation-wide interest established as inviolable sanctuaries for the permanent preservation of scenery, wilderness, and native fauna and flora in their natural condition. National parks are composed of wilderness essentially in a primeval condition, of areas of scenic magnificence, and of a wide variety of features. Their unexcelled quality and unique inspirational beauty distinguish them from all other areas, and make imperative their protection, through Act of Congress, for human enjoyment, education and inspiration for all time.

National Nature Monuments

National nature monuments* are established to preserve specific natural phenomena of such significance that their protection is in the national interest; they are the finest examples of their kind, and are given the same inviolate federal protection as the national parks. While there may be wilderness and scenery in some of the nature monuments, their primary purpose is to protect geological formations, biological features and other significant examples of nature's handiwork. The monuments differ from the parks in that they usually do not have such a wide variety of outstanding features. They may be set aside by Act of Congress, but more often they are established by presidential proclamation, under authority of the *Antiquities Act* of 1906.

APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. National Parks and Monuments Are of National Importance

An area is judged to merit national park or monument status and commitment to federal care by the degree of its value and interest to the nation as a whole. Every proposal for the establishment of a new national park or monument should be carefully examined lest it lead to the admission of an area of lesser importance, and thus form a precedent for the future admission of inferior areas which would dilute the splendor of the system. The sanctuaries should differ as widely as possible from one another, and represent a broad range of features of supreme quality.

* The term "national nature monument," while not official, is used here for the sake of clarity to show that the monuments under consideration are those established to preserve the wonders of nature.

2. Adequate Area Is Required

National parks and national nature monuments are set aside for the enjoyment, scientific study and permanent preservation, in a natural state, of the native plant and animal life and other features within them. Each should be a comprehensive unit embracing sufficient area for effective administration, and where the fauna and flora are of major significance, should include adequate year-round habitat.

3. Protection Is Based on Scientific and Esthetic Values

Federal guardianship of national parks and national nature monuments involves sound scientific research looking to the protection of wilderness, and plant and animal life and other natural features, and it recognizes those great intangible values of inspirational beauty that make their protection imperative. The highest scientific and inspirational quality of the areas are the special, unique values of the national parks and national nature monuments. Visitor enjoyment is based on seeing and experiencing wilderness and the wonders and beauties of nature, without interference from man-made distractions. Future generations have the right to enjoy these sanctuaries unimpaired by present-day use as required by the Act of 1916, establishing the National Park Service.

4. Congress Intends Enjoyment of Unimpaired Nature

When Congress adopted the Act of 1916, establishing the National Park Service, it made that agency of the government the guardian of national parks and monuments, and it charged the Service with the responsibility to *conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations*. Public enjoyment of the natural features of the national parks and national nature monuments is their basic reason for being; the areas are, in fact, living museums. Necessary facilities for visitors should, therefore, be constructed with the least possible alteration of the natural scene.

5. Private Inholdings Are Being Acquired

The acquisition of privately-owned lands within national parks and national nature monuments is imperative to facilitate administration and protection, and to prevent intrusion of undesirable developments and activities on them. Such acquisition is being carried out as rapidly as feasible.

6. Wilderness Preservation Is Vital

Wilderness is one of the most significant attributes of the national parks and national nature monuments, and because it is fragile and irreplaceable, it is kept inviolate and is accessible only by trail.

7. Commercial Uses Are Destructive

The national policy recognizes no use of national parks and national nature monuments for commercial purposes, because such use would alter natural conditions and scenery, which these areas have been established to preserve. Every alteration of the natural landscape, however slight, by such activities as logging, mining, grazing, airport and railroad construction, or damming of watercourses, is a direct violation of a fundamental principle of national park management.

8. Amusement Attractions Are Inconsistent

National parks and national nature monuments are not resorts or amusement centers. The introduction of incongruous recreational features diminishes visitors' enjoyment of the basic character of the sanctuaries. Resort amusement facilities, such as golf courses, swimming pools, ski lifts, tramways, skating rinks, tennis courts and speedboats, abundantly available elsewhere, destroy wilderness atmosphere, and defeat the purpose of visitors who wish to derive inspiration from contact with pristine nature.

9. Interpretation Is the Key to Appreciation

Interpretative programs, with museums, adequate literature, visual aids, guided trips and lectures, are based on the natural features of each area, and are given special emphasis by the National Park Service. The Service informs visitors about the purposes of the areas under its care, stimulates respect for the irreplaceable objects of natural and scientific interest, and emphasizes the special significance of the particular area, as well as of the system as a whole. The National Park Service needs adequate funds to employ a sufficient staff of naturalists to serve the rapidly growing number of visitors.

10. Protection of Plants and Animals Is Fundamental

Public shooting of wildlife in national parks and national nature monuments is contrary to the basic principle that these areas are inviolable sanctuaries, and it is prohibited throughout the park and monument system. Whenever scientific research shows that a native species has become so abundant as to endanger its habitat or the survival of another native species, the National Park Service has authority to reduce its numbers. The introduction of non-native species is contrary to the principle that the national parks and monuments are sanctuaries for *native* wildlife.

Sport and commercial fishing are incompatible with the concept that the national parks and monuments are inviolable sanctuaries for native fauna. Commercial fishing is prohibited, or eliminated as soon as possible. So long as sport fishing is legal, streams and lakes are stocked only when natural reproduction fails to provide enough fish for angling, and then only with species native to the area. High country lakes, where fish do not occur naturally, are not stocked.

Indiscriminate cutting of trees and shrubs and mowing of meadows, and the picking and digging of wild flowers and other plants, are contrary to the principle of inviolate protection of nature. At important overlooks along roads and trails, and at locations where people may observe outstanding manifestations of nature, thinning of vegetation some-

times may be necessary, and it is performed under trained supervision. The removal of dead or dying trees, that may endanger people in areas of heavy use, also may be required at times, as in campgrounds and picnic areas, or along trails and roads.

11. Mechanical Noise Is an Adverse Intrusion

Where airfields and railroad stations exist in national parks and monuments, long-range planning looks toward their removal at the earliest time to sites outside the boundaries. Because outboard motors, speedboats and airplanes are a disturbing influence to those seeking the quiet serenity of nature, as well as detrimental to wildlife, they should be prohibited in national parks and monuments. Low altitude flying over national parks and monuments should be restricted to patrolling, forest fire suppression, rescue, and supply service to ranger outposts that are difficult of access.

12. Roads Are Held to a Minimum

Only such roads are built in national parks and national nature monuments as are needed to provide access to some of the principal features of the sanctuaries, and to facilitate their protection. Roads are located so they will mar scenery and natural features as little as possible, and they are constructed for leisurely driving and not for speed or commercial traffic.

13. Buildings Should Be Designed to Blend With Environment

Buildings within national parks and national nature monuments are designed to be as unobtrusive as possible, and to harmonize with their surroundings. They are erected only where necessary for efficient administration and for the convenience of visitors, at locations where they will least interfere with the natural scene or, where feasible and desirable, outside the boundaries of the parks and monuments. Wherever existing facilities detract from important scenic and scientific features, every effort is being made to move them to unobjectionable sites. Long-range planning envisions the eventual removal of many hotels and lodges to sites outside the boundaries.

14. Concessions Are Only for Necessary Accommodations

Concessions in national parks and national nature monuments are granted only for the necessary care of visitors, and then in restricted locations; and they are operated so as not to lower the dignity of the sanctuaries. National parks and monuments are not established and maintained to provide local or personal profit, and the installation of crowd-attracting facilities and amusements to increase concessioner revenue, or to bolster local income, is a misuse of these reservations.

15. National Archeological Monuments Are Similarly Guarded

National archeological monuments, which are established specifically to protect the structures and other remains of indigenous civilization, are administered under the same principles as set forth herein for the national nature monuments, wherever these are applicable.

16. The Violation of One Park Is a Threat to All

Any infraction of these principles in any national park or monument constitutes a threat to all national parks and monuments. ■



National Park Service

This C. E. Watkins photograph of the "Yo-Semite Valley" in what is now Yosemite National Park was probably one of those submitted to Senator John Conness in February, 1864, by I. W. Raymond to illustrate the unique character of the proposed park. On June 29, 1864, President Lincoln signed the Conness bill granting to the State of California the "Yo-Semite Valley" and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove "for public use, resort, and recreation" to be "inalienable for all time."

In September, 1864, California's Governor Low appointed eight commissioners to manage these areas. Among these were Frederick Law Olmsted, I. W. Raymond and Galen Clark, later first guardian of the park. The area surrounding these state grants became Yosemite National Park in 1890. The state grants were returned to the federal government in 1905 to become part of the national park.

